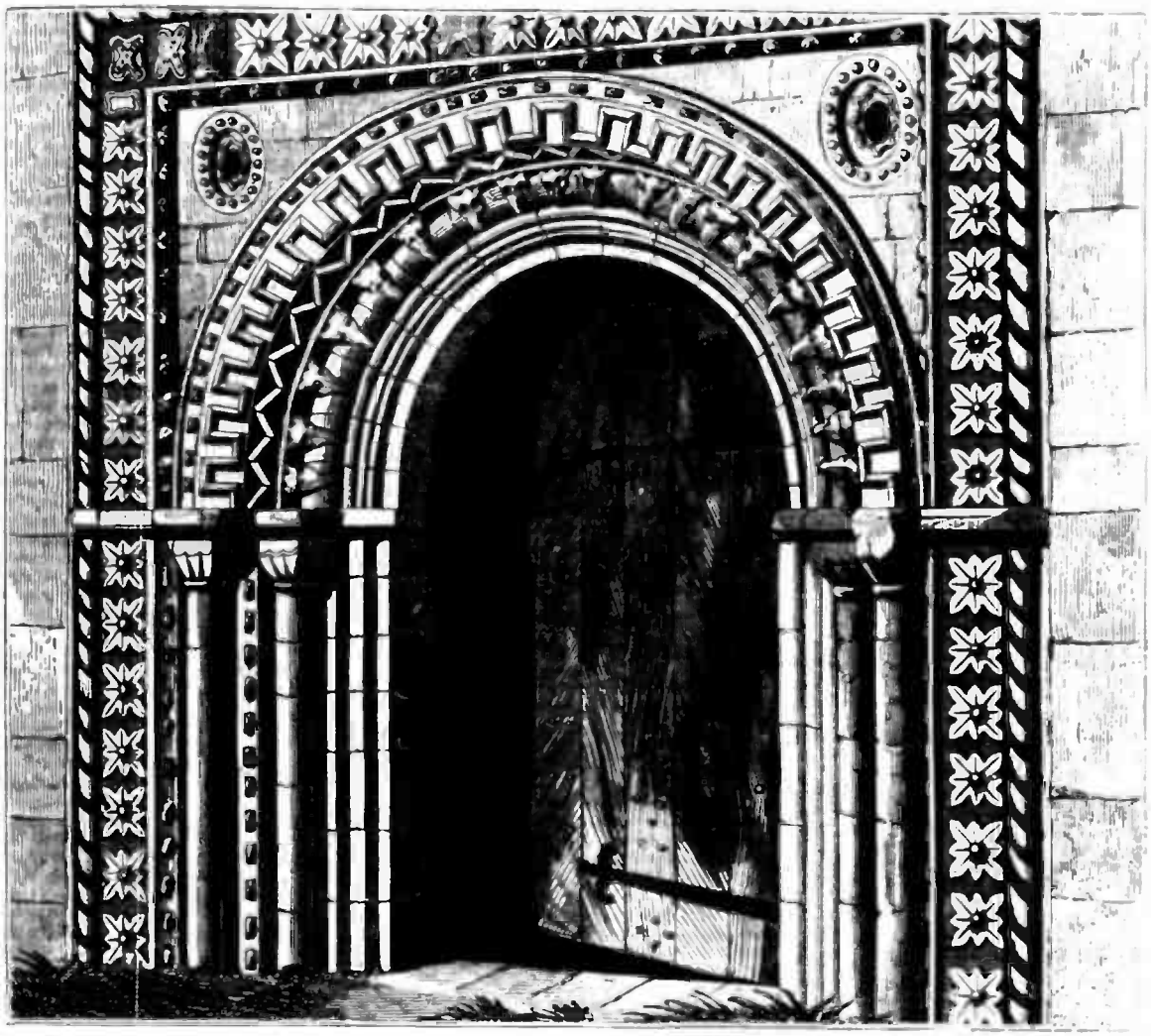
NORMAN DOORWAY, KENILWORTH CHURCH.



generally quoted as "from a contemporary." The fact is, however, that further excitement seems unnecessary. The house must be obtained for the nation; whether our great bard was born in it or not,—even if it be like "my father's knife," which had first a new blade and then a new handle, and is still preserved "because it was my father's knife," the house *must* be purchased, protected, and honoured, and we have no doubt will be. We are not at all anxious, however, that the hucksters, in whose unworthy hands this honoured relic is, should make a harvest out of public feeling, as they evidently wish to do, and we are more disposed at this moment, therefore, to cry caution than to help push."

AN ACCOUNT OF WARWICK CASTLE.†

The castle of Warwick has no architectural features which can clearly be traced to a period earlier than that of Edward I. or II.; but that from a very remote date, it has existed as a place of importance in our national history, may be fairly inferred. Long before the twelfth century, its defences had been repeatedly exposed to the assaults and violence of invaders, and it was not until that date it assumed the form which seemed to defy the attacks of violence, or the more insidious assaults of time. We find it stated, that in 542, Dubritius, bishop of Llandaff, afterwards archbishop of St. David's, made his episcopal seat at Warwick, in the church of All Saints, *where afterwards the castle was built*, and I conceive the present chapel to have been built on this site; an early stone coffin exhibited at the porter's lodge, having been discovered near this spot, warrants this inference. In 915, Ethelfleda, the daughter of King Alfred, made a strong fortification, called "The Dounjeon," on an artificial mound at the western extremity of the castle. The mound forms a conspicuous object in the general view, but no traces of Ethelfleda's fortification are to be discerned. Turchil de Warwick, at the time of the Conquest, is said greatly to have enlarged the castle by command of the Conqueror, who, nevertheless, bestowed the same (*then newly* built, or rather enlarged) on Henry de Novo Burgo, or Newburgh, one of his Norman followers, afterwards promoted by him to the earldom of Warwick. In the year 1153, Gundreda, Countess of Warwick (to use Dugdale's expression) *outed* King Stephen's soldiers forth of Warwick Castle, and delivered that fort to Henry II. In 1259, John Giffard, governor of Kenilworth Castle, surprised the garrison at Warwick, and demolished the walls from tower to tower. Between the years 1315 and 1370, Thomas Beauchamp rebuilt the walls of the castle, and it is to him, I think, the greater part of the edifice, which I now proceed to describe, is to be attributed.

From the present entrance a road has been for some distance cut through the rock, and at its termination the eastern side of the castle bursts on the view, Guy's Tower being the nearest object. The moat is dry, and a bridge of a single arch supplies the place of the ancient drawbridge: the openings to receive the chains of which are, however, remaining in their original state. The portcullis is also retained and regularly lowered every evening. A quick ascent leads to the inner court of the castle. The whole of this central gateway is carefully defended by an internal pair of gates (the hooks for which remain), an inner portcullis and court, from the battlements of which, and from loop-holes, assailants could be molested at all points, as also from a gallery, the approach to which is by an inclined plane in a passage at the side of the wall. The chambers over the outer gateway also command the lines of approach, and above those of the inner gateway is a flying curtain, communicating with the two towers. South of this gate-house stands Cæsar's Tower. In plan it is extraordinary, and well adapted for purposes of resistance and defence. Founded on the rock, it appears to defy the attacks of time. No salient point occurs on which the cunning engines of the besieger could take effect. The plan externally presents three segments of a circle, and on the side next the inner court the plan is angular. Descending by about twenty steps

* We defer the conclusion of our ramble with the "Archæological Institute," in Norfolk, till next week.

† The following is the more detailed account of this fine structure given by Mr. J. G. Jackson, of Leamington, to the British Archæological Association, to which we before referred.

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